

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THE TWO ROADS

A little folder issued by the War Savings organization of the government contains some very sensible advice that could profitably be heeded in America today.

The purpose of the folder is to call public attention to the matter of thrift. If there is any one thing the Americans need to learn, it is to save and not to be spendthrifts. We have the notion in our heads that to spend money lavishly is a sign of liberality and Americans like to be considered liberal, both with their money and their opinions. A great many people have not learned the difference between spending wisely and being a tightwad, consequently rather than be considered a tightwad they choose to waste money in foolish buying and reckless spending, trying to keep up with some one else.

There are two roads open to all of us, "The Thrift" and "The Spendthrift" road. By the spendthrift road we are sure to arrive at the dilapidated town of want; when our years of wasting are spent and we are no longer able to earn enough to meet the demands of our false notions.

A great insurance company recently prepared some dependable statistics based upon an investigation covering a period of years, which showed that ninety two people out of every hundred are dependent upon relatives or charity in old age. That is a condition which should make us think hard in the days of our earning capacity for it indicates a lack of thrift and a reckless wasting.

Only a small percent of the people of America own their homes, not because they have not had opportunity to get a home but because they were not willing to make the personal sacrifice necessary to secure a home. Here are some of the pet expressions we find as we trail along the spendthrift road:

"This is on me."
"One more of the same."
"Lend me five."
"Charge this."
"Here, boy."
"Where do we go from here?"
"Let's have another round."
"You can go home any time."
"Your money's no good."
"I can't be bothered with small change."
"The sky's the limit."
"I'm paying for this."
"Don't be a piker."
"It's all in a lifetime."
"More where this came from."

And these careless ideas have led many a man to want and others to unintentional dishonesty.

The thrift road may not lead to fame, but it is more than likely to lead to self respect and community respect. In addition to that it provides for the comforts of old age at ones own expense and not at the expense of relatives or an indulgent public.

The thrifty man regards the waste of time or money as an offense against society. He wants to do his full share toward the support of the community in which he lives, his state and his nation and here are some of the expressions we hear from those who follow the road to thrift.

"What's the price of this?"
"One will do."
"The walk will do me good."
"No, thank you."
"I can't afford that."
"Give me your best price."
"I'll carry this."
"I promised my wife."
"I need the money."
"Let me pay my share."
"I can get along without this."
"I'll get it as I need it."
"Is it worth seeing?"
"A penny is as good in my pocket."
"This is what I got for my money."

This is a personal question. Each makes his own choice. There is no place where one can stand on the corner and say, "I am not going either road." Which road are you traveling?

SATURDAY NIGHT CLOSING

The closing of stores on Saturday night is a serious community question in Alma, which should be carefully considered by both the people and the merchants.

Alma has grown so rapidly that it has become a city of nearly ten thousand inhabitants, before any one realized it, consequently it has retained some of its country village ways, and among these is the unfortunate habit of keeping the stores open until midnight or later on Saturday nights. This practice is not fair to the merchants or their clerks, who are human and need rest and relaxation just as well as the rest of us. These men hustle all week and hustle especially hard on Saturday. They are anxious to please the public with efficient service. It goes without saying that any person who has worked eighteen or twenty hours on Saturday is neither physically nor mentally in condition to observe the Sabbath day by attending church and it is further apparent that every one should be entitled to the privilege of attending church and taking part in the worship if he desires to do so.

All that is necessary to be done in order to break away from this backwoods custom of keeping stores open till midnight is to have co-operation between the merchants and the community. It will not take a great amount of planning on the part of the public to arrange for their purchase earlier in the week and thus relieve these men of a lot of extra work on Saturday night.

Every community is better off for co-operation amongst its citizens and we think that here is an opportunity for the people of Alma to co-operate in such a way that it will benefit the whole community some and be of great benefit to those who are overworked. We believe that the stores of Alma could just as well be closed at 9:30 or 10:00 o'clock on Saturday night and the public still be efficiently served. Think this matter over carefully, try to put yourself in the other fellow's place and a fair adjustment will be the result.

It wasn't sitting in the shade and complaining about his hard lot that made Abraham Lincoln a strong and great man. It was splitting rails and digging ditch that made him strong, and it was studying hard and improving his mind while the other fellow sat in the shade and growled, that made him great. It is our attitude toward life that makes or breaks us. Laziness never accomplished anything in the world.

If you haven't a disposition to really work for what you get, and give honest service in return for honest pay, you better examine your disposition and find what is wrong, because some day it's going to wreck your fondest hopes on the rocks in Crooked River.

Some fine day the Angel Gabriel is going to toot his horn for you to come up to the office and give a detailed account of what you've been doing with all the time you've had. What are you going to say about it?

If it rains, let it rain, the sun will shine tomorrow and seem all the brighter for the cloudy day. Keep your mind clear from clouds and gloom and the weather will be all right.

HEALTH WORK

Red Cross Will Take On New Problems of Importance.

A campaign of education to instruct the people in the necessity for expending money for disseminating health information is to be undertaken immediately by the Public Health Nursing Service of the American Red Cross as an outgrowth of a national conference on nursing problems held in Washington November 17 to 21.

Many problems which the public health nurse of the Red Cross will have to face in communities where concerted health activity is an innovation were discussed. Dr. John A. Ferrel, of New York stated that the first big problem was educating the people of a community that the most important work in this work is spent wisely.

The Red Cross Public Health Nursing service will not supplant the work of any recognized agency already in the field. An effort will be made to co-operate with them in establishing and maintaining public health centers wherever such a center would be feasible. It is the aim of the Red Cross to establish, in conjunction with other agencies, these public health centers in every community where practical nursing, home care of the sick, dietetics, and first aid may be taught, and the people taught how to check the inroad of preventable diseases.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan Northern Would Open New Business Possibilities.

One of the big items of tonnage originating in the territory through which the Michigan Northern railroad will pass, is milk. Tonnage statistics placed before the utilities commission and which have been gathered along the line indicate a big tonnage of raw milk. The potential tonnage of this commodity, however, is much larger if collection and transportation facilities are provided.

Unlike other items of tonnage the milk tonnage is a daily revenue and the line passes through an ideal dairy country which has not fully developed its possibilities. One of the shippers on the line that will branch off if increased transportation facilities make it possible to obtain the raw product, is the Libby plant at Perrinton. The daily collection for this plant totals 250,000 pounds of raw milk. The company claims there is a big field for its operations in the territory that would be opened up by the Michigan Northern and that when the line is built, the company will branch out, increase its collections and increase the scope of its operation providing the railroad company equips for handling and collecting raw milk.

INJURED WEDNESDAY

Henry McFarland Hurt When Truck Was Hit By Passenger Train.

Henry McFarland, driver of one of Swift & Company's trucks, was badly injured last week Wednesday afternoon when a truck which he was driving, was hit by the southbound Ann Arbor passenger train, and demolished.

The truck was loaded with eggs the entire length of the train, while the depot at Forest Hill was painted a brilliant hue from the eggs, which were thrown against it and broken. The depot platform, against which the truck was knocked was badly battered.

The train was stopped just as quickly as possible, and McFarland, who had been carried about fifty feet, was picked up and put on the train, and rushed to Carney hospital here. It was found that he was not as badly injured as had been expected, and he will probably be out again in a short time.

Owing to the fact that The Record was out early last week so that the employees might enjoy a holiday on Thanksgiving, this item was too late for last week's issue.

CHANGED HANDS

Genesta Theatre Is Closed and Is Now Being Remodeled.

The Genesta theatre on East Superior street, which has been sold by Gilbert Genesta to Raymond J. McLaughlin, proprietor of the Victory theatre of St. Johns, was closed Monday, when it went under the new management, until contemplated remodeling is finished.

Workmen are now busy at the theatre making some extensive changes in the interior, which when completed will make it a far more attractive place than formerly, and will make it a far more attractive in keeping with the well known show houses of this part of the state.

The work will be completed within a very short time, when Manager McLaughlin expects to open the theatre with a run of high class feature pictures, that are certain to command attention.

STORES SOLD

Liquist Stores in Four Cities Sold To A. H. Martin of Grand Rapids.

A deal was consummated in Grand Rapids last week whereby the business and merchandise stocks of the F. O. Liquist retail stores in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon and Alma were sold to Albert H. Martin of the Hauger-Martin company of Grand Rapids.

So far as is known at the present time, it is the intention of the new owner of the four well known stores to continue the same business policies, that marked the company under the former ownership.

The consideration for the four stores mentioned in the sale, was not made public, but it has been reported that it was in the neighborhood of \$120,000.00.

Invest in Humanity, via Red Cross.

PRACTICE STARTED

Candidates for College Quintet Are Now Working Out.

Candidates for Coach Alger H. Wood's Alma college basketball five were called out the first of the week, and the preliminary work of the season is now well under way.

A series of interclass games is being staged for the class championship, through which Coach Wood is hoping to uncover all timber that may be available for the Varsity five, and it is expected that the interclass affairs will bring out practically all of the men, who have had any previous experience, or have any indications of caging ability.

The series is expected to come to a close next week, at which time the Alma Mentor will start some strenuous workouts in grinding out a quintet, and all of the promising material located in the series, will get a chance to show its worth.

Not all of the men who have been expected out as yet have donned suits, as some of them have not yet recovered from injuries sustained in football. Principal among these men are Captain Telo, with an injured arm; Anderson, veteran center, who has a bad knee; and Mark, the Detroit Northwestern star, who has not yet recovered from his injured knee. It is questionable whether or not these three men will be able to get into the practices before the Holidays.

A HYDROMETER

Every Motorist Should Carry One in His Car.

Most car owners carry a tire gauge to test the air pressure in their tires. Many cars, today, are equipped with a device which indicates overheating in the motor. These are for safety first purposes, and in this same class comes the hydrometer which every motorist should carry in his car.

A hydrometer is a glass tube with a rubber bulb on one end and inside the glass tube is a weighted boat. This instrument is used to test the specific gravity of the acid solution in a battery and should be used at least every two weeks. To take a reading, the rubber bulb is pressed and the point of the hydrometer is placed in the cell; the bulb is then released and the acid solution is drawn up in the hydrometer. If you find the specific gravity falling below 1.275 the battery must be charged from an outside source.

"Many people, however," says the expert, who represents the Willard Storage Battery Company in Alma, "do not want to go to this trouble, and we are here for just that purpose. We will be glad at any time to take the hydrometer reading of any battery without charge. All a motorist has to do is to drive around to our place and ask us to test his battery." Frequent tests of a battery may save considerable trouble and expense later on.—adv.

IT PAYS TO WAIT FOR QUALITY

J. Sawkins, manager of The Sawkins Piano Co., just returned from a business trip to Detroit, Toledo and Chicago, where he succeeded in speeding up shipment on various types of Victor and Brunswick talking machines for holiday trade.

Joe reports favorably in regard to added production in the factories to meet the onslaught of orders now piling up in advance of the Christmas business. He, however, warns the buying public to place their orders now, especially if they want one of the larger type machines, as the supply continues to prove uncertain.

More people realize each day, the high cost of cheap phonographs—the dissatisfaction that is bound to follow sooner or later—and are demanding the higher grade goods; thus an added demand for the world's leaders, the Victor, Columbia and Brunswick machines.

The discriminating buyer is always willing to wait on tardy delivery, for the wait insures satisfaction. People are no longer content with merely a good looking cabinet, but insist on good tone, as well as life time service and high quality construction inside and out. These features combined create not only satisfaction, but a source of endless entertainment and education to their proud owners.

The life of an inferior phonograph is extremely limited and its exchange value is invariably very near its original cost.

Place your order now for machines if you desire early delivery. If we haven't what you want in stock we will loan you one while you wait for the machine of your choice. You pay for the best and you are entitled to it.—ad.

FARMERS' CLUB

The Seville and Sumner Farmers' Club will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Ferris Thursday, December 11.

Come early as the days are short and we have a well program. We urge members and friends to be on hand to hear our delegates' report. Much depends on the farmer of today. Are we prepared to do our part? One dollar is offered for the best ten ears of corn brought in by members of the club. The program follows:

Song—Club.
Prayer.
Roll call.
Reading minutes of last meeting.
Election of officers.
Meeting—Mrs. James Gargett.
Report of State Farmers' Club.
Meeting—Mrs. Alma Gargett.
Question box.
Song—Club.

NOTICE, SEVILLE TAXPAYERS

I will be at Bank of Elwell Saturday, December 13, 20 and 27 and January 3; at Riverdale State Savings Bank Tuesday, December 16, 23, 30 and January 6 for the collection of taxes. Chas. E. Egan, 24-2-c.

Scratch paper in convenient pads, 25c per pound at The Record.

Every Red Cross answers a prayer.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Mary Hall Eagon was born August 1, 1853, in Ontario county, N. Y., and died November 25, at her home in Detroit, after an illness of one week.

She was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hirma T. Hall of near Shepherd.

She was united in marriage, October 24, 1875 to Archibald F. Eagon. They resided in Alma, St. Louis and vicinity for many years. Shortly after the death of her husband, the family moved to Owosso and one year ago to Detroit.

She is survived by one son and three daughters; Clyde H. Eagon of Fremont, Ohio; Mrs. E. G. Smith of Atlanta, Mich.; Misses Stella and Floy of Detroit; and one grandson, George Eagon of Fremont, Ohio; also by one brother and three sisters, Wm. T. Hall, Mrs. Olive Hart, Mrs. Phoebe Reid and Mrs. Lafa Struble.

In early life she united with the Christian church and lived a consistent Christian life. She was devoted to her family and loved by all who knew her.

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Editors: Have not the people of Alma been somewhat remiss in their attention to our returned soldiers? We sent them away on their perilous errand in the world's behalf with flags flying and hearts filled with love and pride. They have returned and each one "tackled his job" and no notice has been taken of the fact.

The Woman's Relief Corps is the only organization whose avowed object is the ministering to the wants of our soldiers and sailors and it seems fitting that it should inaugurate a movement to show our boys that we appreciate what they have done for us and the world at large. In this we ask the co-operation of all our citizens. Our plans are not fully outlined at present but you will hear from us further in the matter.

Alice G. Titus, Pres. W. R. C.

MAY RE-OPEN MONDAY

Nick Bardaville of the European Cafe stated yesterday that he expected that the insurance adjusters would be through with their work at the cafe, in checking up the losses sustained in last Friday morning's fire, by last night, and it was his belief that with a good force of men to repair the rear of the building that it would be possible to re-open the cafe by Monday.

The loss from the fire, smoke and water will be considerably heavier than first estimates had it, indications were yesterday. It is now believed that the loss will be between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

NORTHWEST SEVILLE

G. Pool, who has been on the sick list, is reported better.

Archie Ingraham, who has been visiting here, has returned to Detroit where he is working.

Mrs. L. Rowland of near Shepherd spent Thanksgiving with her grandmother, Mrs. J. Decker.

Mrs. J. Whitney is entertaining her sister of Minneapolis this week.

A. Ingraham has resumed his work in Alma.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Wilson of Alma are spending a few days with Mrs. Wilson's father, C. Briggs.

J. Dexter has bought a new Nash automobile.

Mrs. L. Loomis spent Thanksgiving with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. Dickinson.

The windstorm of Saturday put the telephone line out of working order.

Mayor Chas. R. Murphy and John C. Chick, city commissioner were in Detroit the first of the week making purchases at the government warehouses, for the next store that the city will open for the disposal of government foodstuffs and clothing. More goods were secured than was the case for the previous highly successful sale, and they are expected to reach here within a short time. The date for the sale will be announced later through the columns of The Record. It is expected that this will be the last of such sales to be conducted by the city.

Balancing Trade.

Where one country exports extensively to another and buys nothing from it the checks and drafts given in payment do not balance and it comes necessary to ship gold or otherwise readjust accounts. This is expensive and makes it necessary to pay a premium in exchange. This premium is virtually an addition to prices paid. When it becomes too high purchases will be made in other markets. Thus will trade be lost unless it is balanced.

Incompleteness.

How universal is the sense of incompleteness in human experience! Youth, maturity and even old age are ever reaching for the something else which they crave for the hour, which seems to be the essential need of the year while we occasionally meet natures who are bending every force of their working years to the end of attaining some great ambition, failing in which, life to them is but a fraction.—Robert Carroll.

Accommodating Lily.

South America is not the only country that can boast of large leaves. In India the Victoria Regia grows leaves several feet across, and with a buoyancy sufficient to sustain the weight of a child. The edges turn up and form a sort of bowl.

Chamberlain's Tablets

These tablets are intended especially for indigestion and constipation. They tone up the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. They act gently on the liver and bowels, thereby restoring the stomach and bowels to a healthy condition. When you feel dull, stupid and constipated give them a trial. You are certain to be pleased with their effect.

LIVED LONG WITHOUT FOOD

Many Cases of Genuine Fasting Recorded Among the Many That Were Fairly Fake.

When the cupboard is bare, and housekeeping funds are low, the poor taxpayer thinks of the fasting of the Carthusian monks, and wonders if that is the practical answer to his problem.

Apart from the obvious tricksters of the traveling fairs, there are many notable cases of genuine fasting.

In the year 1347, Cleely Lidgway was charged with the murder of her husband, and in order to impress the judges with her innocence, she fasted for 40 days and was acquitted; folks considering her salvation as a direct divine intervention.

A well-known American medical man, Doctor Tanner of New York, fasted for 40 days in the summer of 1880, and lost nearly 42 pounds weight in the process.

Louis Latou, who died at the age of thirty-three in 1883, was said to have gone without food for 12 years!

Amongst the most famous of the fake fasters was "The Fasting Woman of Tutbury," who claimed to have abstained from food for 20 months. She created a furore before being finally exposed in 1808.

A man named Chavanagh astonished the world by declaring that he had lived without food from February, 1838, until November, 1840, that is nearly two years, but on his statement being disproved he was imprisoned.—London Tit-Bits.

LIGHT THAT YET SHALL DAWN

Glorious Sign Promised, to Denote That All Men Are Determined to Be Free.

Look you, a while ago was the light bright about us; but it was because of the moon, and the night was deep notwithstanding, and when the moonlight waned and died there was but a little glimmer in place of the bright light, yet was the world glad because all things knew that the glimmer was of day and not of night. Look you, an image of the time to betide the hope of the fellowship of men. Yet forsooth, it may well be that this bright day of summer which is now dawning upon us is no image of the beginning of the day that shall be; but rather shall that day-dawn be cold and gray and surly; and yet by its light shall men see things as they verily are, and no longer haunted by gleam of the moon and the glamour of the dreamtime. By such gray light shall wise men deal with it, a real thing that may be touched and handled, and no glory of the heavens to be worshiped from afar off. And what shall it be, as I told thee before, save that men shall be determined to be free.—William Morris, in "A Dream of John Ball."

Franklin Had His Doubts.

The following speech was made by Benjamin Franklin at the convention which adopted the United States Constitution:

"Mr. President, I confess that I do not entirely approve this Constitution, but I am not sure that I shall never approve it. I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information or fuller consideration to change opinions even on important subjects which I once thought right and found to be otherwise. In these sentiments I agree to this Constitution, with all its faults, if they are such. I doubt, too, whether any other convention we can obtain may be able to make a better Constitution. The opinions I have had of its errors I sacrifice to the public good. I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of this convention who may have objections to it would with me on this occasion doubt a little of his own infallibility, and to make manifest our unanimity put his name to this instrument."

Siam's Amazon Guard.

Siam is one of the few countries which boast of a corps of women police. The members of this Amazon guard are all old and homely. They wear a uniform, but are not armed. Their chief duty is to act as gate keepers of the inner, or women's palace at Bangkok.

They follow any stranger who enters the palace and remain with him until he takes his departure. They see that there is no mischief made and that no one makes love to the royal wives and women. Men who have business inside the palace—doctors, architects, carpenters, electricians, etc.—enter the palace freely, but are always accompanied by some of the Amazon guard. The palace has some difficulty in recruiting these guards, as the work is hard, the pay poor and the qualification uncomplimentary.

Best to Secure Proof.

Life's big business is to prove things. There's much small chatter whenever people get together, but it may easily end at that. The truly big issues of life demand the fullest proof and the most rigid security. So the man who takes things for granted subjects himself to disappointments and makes little or no progress. As a matter of fact, there is very little that one dare take for granted. Life has so many exceptions, so many contingencies that one can never tell just what will happen next. So the wise man will take nothing for granted. He will prove everything and base his future on what he has learned to trust. After all, that's the only safe way to do.

Take Your Rations.

If you could ride from the earth to Alpha Centauri, the nearest star, and you traveled at the rate of one mile a minute, you would reach your destination in 48,000,000 years. It would therefore be wise to take a few sandwiches.

Black Apes.

The black apes of Guinea have long, silky hair, and their fur is used for muffs and capes.

USE OF CAVALRY IN BATTLE

Roman and Greek Charioteers Were Formidable Foemen—German Tribes Dided the Saddle.

In the old days when the Romans and Greeks fought furious battles, the charioteers drove their cars in all directions, hurled their javelins, and by the din and clatter of horses and wheels commonly threw the ranks of the enemy into disorder, and making their way among the squadrons of the enemy's cavalry, leaped down from their chariots and fought on foot. The charioteers then withdrew, little by little, from the fight, and placed their chariots in such a way that if they were hard pressed they could readily retreat to their own side. Thus in battle they afforded the mobility of cavalry with the steadiness of infantry. Daily practice enabled them to pull up their horses when going at full speed on a steep slope, or run out on the pole and stand on the yoke, and to get nimbly back into the chariot.

With the introduction of cavalry in the later iron age came larger horses, but their use for this purpose seems to have been restricted to isolated areas. There is no doubt that the west German tribes, as late as the campaign of Caesar in Gaul, used only the shaggy pony. It is said in cavalry actions they held it disgraceful and slothful to use any kind of saddle, and instead of charging in squadrons they dismounted and fought on foot. As far as England is concerned, the art of riding seems to have been introduced by the Normans. The Saxons appear to have been but indifferent horsemen.

NOT A FEMININE ATTRIBUTE

Idea That Skirts Especially Pertain to the Weaker Sex Is Completely Misleading.

If there is one thing presumably certain on this earth, in the opinion of most of us, it is that skirts are essentially feminine, and that the special feature of masculine attire is a bifurcated garment. But nothing is further from the truth. To this day the majority of the male element of the human race, so far as it wears clothes at all, is skirted. And in past times, not so very long ago, a gown down to the feet was the correct wear of respectability in civilized Europe. An anecdote told of St. Louis, king of France, illustrates this well. The monarch was the stoutest of warriors, a man whom to one knowing anything about would dream of accusing of being effeminate, but on one occasion he seriously offered to exchange costumes with a richly dressed female relative who had blamed him for wearing the unpretentious garments he usually affected, which she said were unsuited to a king. But she thought his gown was too plain for her, so declined the offer. Now, it is impossible to imagine a man like Louis even suggesting such a thing if the dress of men and women had not been practically identical, except for war and hunting. Indeed a glance at old pictures confirms this impression.

How Sardines Are Taken.

Sardines are taken in a peculiar way. A small-meshed net made of very fine blue thread is dropped into the water astern of a rowing boat. Two men pull the boat steadily along, while a third stands up and throws bait on each side of the net. As the sardines try to pass through the meshes to reach the bait they are caught by the gills. Every now and again the men "haul in," detach the entangled fish, then cast out the net once more. Sometimes as many as five or six thousand fishes per day are thus taken, and the catch brings high prices.

But the value of these is discounted by the growing cost of bait. For this purpose salted cod's roe is used. It has to be obtained from Norway, and the price rises continually.